(c) whether off late, there have been reports that even private telecom operators in India indulge in large-scale routing of ILD calls as local calls causing loss to MTNL and BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited was found routing incoming international calls with domestic Calling Line Identification (CLI) in trunk groups meant for domestic calls in violation of the Interconnect Agreement with BSNL and MTNL. For this violation, BSNL has asked M/s Reliance Infocomm. Limited on 29th October, 2004 to pay Rs. 182 crores. However, M/s Reliance Infocomm. Limited appealed against this before the Hon'ble High Court and the matter is pending. While the total dues pending against M/s Reliance Infocomm. Limited from BSNL as on 5.11.2004 was Rs. 257 crores, they have only paid approximately Rs. 100 crores so far. MTNL has made a claim of Rs. 341.27 crores against M/s Reliance Infocomm. Limited and M/s Reliance Infocomm. Limited has paid Rs. 66.76 crores to MTNL.

State-wide Area Network Policy

92. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rolled out State-wide Area Network Policy to facilitate the creation of necessary infrastructrure by State Governments;

(b) if so, the salient features of the above policy; and

(c) the total amount that Government are going to spend for the development of this network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features are as under:

(i) The policy aims at providing support to State Governments to establish State-wide Area Networks (SWANs) from the State Headquarters up to the Block level with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps. These network would be connected to NICNET through appropriate interfaces.

(ii) For the State to be eligible for funding under the policy, it should have undertaken implementation of three major State-wide e-Governance projects that require such connectivity. At least one of these projects should have been completely rolled out over the entire State.

(iii) As per the policy, Department of Information Technology will meet the capital and operational costs of the network over a period of 5 years. The respective States will have to bear Bandwidth/Transponder access cost required for the network, Physical Site and all other related recurring costs.

(iv) State may opt to implement the SWAN either through National Informatics Centre (NIC) or through any other agency selected by the State.

(v) State Government would adhere to the Guidelines for Security, Standardization, Inter-operability and Interconnect requirements between NICNET and the SWAN.

(c) It is estimated that an expenditure of about Rs. 1000 crore by the Centre over a period of five years would be required for the coverage of all States.

Replacement of land-line phones by WLL/Mobile phones

†93. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any scheme in the coming days of providing WLL or Mobile phones only to the consumers by withdrawing the land-line phone system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.